

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

**VDPP, LLC,
Plaintiff,**

Civil Action No.

v.

**ALPINION USA, INC.,
Defendant**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff VDPP, LLC (“VDPP”) files this Original Complaint and demand for jury trial seeking relief from patent infringement of the claims of U.S. Patent 9,699,444 (“the ’444 patent”) and the claims of U.S. Patent No. 9,716,874 (“the ’874 patent”), (referred to as the “Patents-in-Suit”) by Defendant ALPINION USA, INC.

I. THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff VDPP is a company organized under the laws of Oregon with a principal place of business located in Corvallis, Oregon.

2. On information and belief, Defendant is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of the State of Washington, with a place of business located at 21222 30th Dr SE, Ste C-122, Bothell, WA 98021-7019. Defendant can be served with

1 process through their registered agent, GENE KIM, at 21222 30TH DR SE, STE C-122,
2 Bothell, WA 98021-7019, at its place of business, or anywhere else it may be found.

3 3. On information and belief, Defendant sells and offers to sell products and services
4 throughout Texas, including in this judicial district, and introduces products and services
5 that perform infringing methods or processes into the stream of commerce knowing that
6 they would be sold in Washington and this judicial district.

7 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

8 4. This Court has original subject-matter jurisdiction over the entire action pursuant
9 to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because Plaintiff's claim arises under an Act of
10 Congress relating to patents, namely, 35 U.S.C. § 271.

11 5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because: (i) Defendant is
12 present within or has minimum contacts within the State of Washington and this judicial
13 district; (ii) Defendant has purposefully availed itself of the privileges of conducting
14 business in the State of Washington and in this judicial district; and (iii) Plaintiff's cause
15 of action arises directly from Defendant's business contacts and other activities in the
16 State of Washington and in this judicial district.

17 6. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1400(b). Defendant has
18 committed acts of infringement and has a regular and established place of business in this
19 District. Further, venue is proper because Defendant conducts substantial business in this
20 forum, directly or through intermediaries, including: (i) at least a portion of the
21 infringements alleged herein; and (ii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in
22 other persistent courses of conduct and/or deriving substantial revenue from goods and
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1 services provided to individuals in Washington and this District. Defendant is a resident
2 of the State of Washington.

3 **III. INFRINGEMENT**

4 **A. Count 1 - Infringement of the '444 Patent**

5 7. On July 4, 2017, U.S. Patent No. 9,699,444 (“the ’444 patent”, included as Exhibit
6 A and part of this complaint) entitled “Faster state transitioning for continuous adjustable
7 3deeps filter spectacles using multi-layered variable tint materials” was duly and legally
8 issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Plaintiff owns the ’444 patent by
9 assignment.

10 8. The ’444 patent relates to methods and systems for capturing and modifying
11 images.

12 9. Defendant maintains, operates, and administers systems, products, and services in
13 the field of image image capture, streaming, modification and displaying that infringes
14 one or more of claims 1-27 of the ’444 patent, literally or under the doctrine of
15 equivalents. Defendant put the inventions claimed by the ’444 Patent into service (i.e.,
16 used them); but for Defendant’s actions, the claimed-inventions embodiments involving
17 Defendant’s products and services would never have been put into service. Defendant’s
18 acts complained of herein caused those claimed-invention embodiments as a whole to
19 perform, and Defendant’s procurement of monetary and commercial benefit from it.

20 10. Support for the allegations of infringement may be found in the preliminary
21 exemplary table attached as Exhibit B. These allegations of infringement are preliminary
22 and are therefore subject to change.
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1 11. Defendant has caused Plaintiff damage by direct infringement of the claims of the
2 '444 patent.

3 **B. Count 2 - Infringement of the '874 Patent**

4 12. On July 25, 2017, U.S. Patent No. 9,716,874 ("the '874 patent," included as
5 Exhibit C and part of this complaint) entitled "Continuous Adjustable 3Deeps Filter
6 Spectacles for Optimized 3Deeps Stereoscopic Viewing, Control Method and Means
7 therefore, and System and Method of Generating and Displaying a Modified Video" was
8 duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Plaintiff owns the '874
9 patent by assignment.

10 13. The '874 patent is directed to a method and apparatus adapted to capture and store
11 image frames from different video streams, modify captured image frames, blend
12 modified image frames based on an identified bridge frame, and generate a combined
13 frame for display.

14 14. Defendant maintains, operates, and administers systems, products, and services in
15 the field of image capture and modification that infringes one or more of claims of the
16 '874 patent, including one or more of claims 1-4, literally or under the doctrine of
17 equivalents. Defendant put the inventions claimed by the '874 Patent into service (i.e.,
18 used them); but for Defendant's actions, the claimed-inventions embodiments involving
19 Defendant's products and services would never have been put into service. Defendant's
20 acts complained of herein caused those claimed-invention embodiments as a whole to
21 perform, and Defendant's procurement of monetary and commercial benefit from it.
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1 15. Support for the allegations of infringement may be found in the preliminary
2 exemplary table attached as Exhibit D. These allegations of infringement are preliminary
3 and are therefore subject to change.

4 16. Defendant has caused Plaintiff damage by direct infringement of the claims of the
5 '874 patent.

6 **IV. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT**

7 17. Plaintiff is a non-practicing entity, with no products to mark. Plaintiff has pled all
8 statutory requirements to obtain pre-suit damages. Further, all conditions precedent to
9 recovery are met. Under the rule of reason analysis, Plaintiff has taken reasonable steps
10 to ensure marking by any licensee producing a patented article.

11 18. Plaintiff and its predecessors-in-interest have entered into settlement licenses with
12 several defendant entities, but none of the settlement licenses were to produce a patented
13 article, for or under the Plaintiff's patents. Duties of confidentiality prevent disclosure of
14 settlement licenses and their terms in this pleading but discovery will show that Plaintiff
15 and its predecessors-in-interest have substantially complied with Section 287(a).
16 Furthermore, each of the defendant entities in the settlement licenses did not agree that
17 they were infringing any of Plaintiff's patents, including the Patents-in-Suit, and thus
18 were not entering into the settlement license to produce a patented article for Plaintiff or
19 under its patents. Further, to the extent necessary, Plaintiff will limit its claims of
20 infringement to method claims and thereby remove any requirement for marking.
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22 19. To the extent Defendant identifies an alleged unmarked product produced for
23 Plaintiff or under Plaintiff's patents, Plaintiff will develop evidence in discovery to either
24 show that the alleged unmarked product does not practice the Patents-in-suit and that
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1 Plaintiff has substantially complied with the marking statute. Defendant has failed to
2 identify any alleged patented article for which Section 287(a) would apply. Further,
3 Defendant has failed to allege any defendant entity produce a patented article.

4 20. The policy of § 287 serves three related purposes: (1) helping to avoid innocent
5 infringement; (2) encouraging patentees to give public notice that the article is patented;
6 and (3) aiding the public to identify whether an article is patented. These policy
7 considerations are advanced when parties are allowed to freely settle cases without
8 admitting infringement and thus not require marking. All settlement licenses were to end
9 litigation and thus the policies of §287 are not violated. Such a result is further warranted
10 by 35 U.S.C. §286 which allows for the recovery of damages for six years prior to the
11 filing of the complaint.

12 21. For each previous settlement license, Plaintiff understood that (1) the settlement
13 license was the end of litigation between the defendant entity and Plaintiff and was not a
14 license where the defendant entity was looking to sell a product under any of Plaintiff's
15 patents; (2) the settlement license was entered into to terminate litigation and prevent
16 future litigation between Plaintiff and defendant entity for patent infringement; (3)
17 defendant entity did not believe it produced any product that could be considered a
18 patentable article under 35 U.S.C. §287; and, (4) Plaintiff believes it has taken reasonable
19 steps to ensure compliance with 35 U.S.C. §287 for each prior settlement license.

20 22. Each settlement license that was entered into between the defendant entity and
21 Plaintiff was negotiated in the face of continued litigation and while Plaintiff believes
22 there was infringement, no defendant entity agreed that it was infringing. Thus, each
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1 prior settlement license reflected a desire to end litigation and as such the policies of §287
2 are not violated.

3 **V. JURY DEMAND**

4 Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on issues so triable by right.

5 **VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

6 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as follows:

- 7 a. enter judgment that Defendant has infringed the claims of the Patents-in-Suit;
- 8 b. award Plaintiff damages in an amount sufficient to compensate it for Defendant's
- 9 infringement of the Patents-in-Suit in an amount no less than a reasonable royalty or lost
- 10 profits, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest and costs under 35 U.S.C.
- 11 § 284;
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- 13 c. award Plaintiff an accounting for acts of infringement not presented at trial and an award
- 14 by the Court of additional damage for any such acts of infringement;
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- 16 d. declare this case to be "exceptional" under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and award Plaintiff its
- 17 attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action;
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- 19 e. declare Defendant's infringement to be willful and treble the damages, including
- 20 attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action and an increase in the damage
- 21 award pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;
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- 23 f. award Plaintiff such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.
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Attorneys for VDPP, LLC

DATED THIS 15th day of July, 2025.

By: ___/S/ Shaun Huppert_____
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Daniel J. Gerl, WSBA #36586
Attorneys for Plaintiffs